

An Essay
on
"Syphilization".

Respectfully Submitted to the
Faculty of the Homoeopathic Medical
College of Penn^a

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On
the 1st day of February
1858

"But Jove, who saw from high with just disdain
The dead inspired with vital breath again,
Struck to the center with his flaming dart
Th' unhappy founder of the godlike art"

Aeneid VII. 7.

"Why," says a critical writer of the middle
ages, "Should Esculapius be thus struck
with a thunder-bolt for restoring Hyppolitus
to life, and his followers be pardoned who send
so many souls from life to death?"

Could the Shade of Hippocrates have
descended the Styx and wandered again
through his favorite haunts, what a picture
of his just-ent would there have been presented
to him—How had it stood the test of ages?
After the lapse of full two thousand years

he finds but little change in that vast edifice
of which he had so firmly laid the foundation.
Many indeed essayed to add their work
to his, but none, on comparison with the
original, was found to harmonize. And now
lying round about and obstructing every approach
he has gathered into uncumbrly piles the result
of the labors of those, wishing to add a stone to the
vast creation of his genius - Now alas, only
hindrances in the path of future labors. The
superstructure had yet to be accomplished, nor
had he yet been found who had the ability
to undertake it -

Throughout the long list of great names
so finely emblazoned on the title pages of
historic medicine, how many do we find to
have in reality accomplished nothing?

Beginning with Podalirus, Asclepius' son,

who first drew life blood from the human vein,
we find nothing recorded until the advent
of Hippocrates, with his many aphorisms - After him
Cnepsippus appears upon the stage and
overthrew all his teacher had advanced -
He in turn is treated in like manner by one
Heraclides - Many followed him each in
turn condemning the doctrines of his predecessor:
until at length Galen steps in, and with
his four elementary qualities of Airs - heat,
Cold, Dryness & Moisture - held sway until the
time of Paracelsus who considered it his part
in the drama to overthrow everything advanced
before and to reestablish Medicine on a new
basis - Thus we obtained a vast mass
of Eclecticism from which it was the difficult
task of the student to cull what might be
true & useful - But "truth" could no

longer brook the inglorious bonds which chained
it to the low idea of our illustrious prede-
cessor Hippocrates, but in the garb of "Similia
Similibus" rose like a meteor in the far
off horizon, pausing only in its course to take
its place as a star of the first magnitude -
- Mark how the Sage, with glass in hand,
scans the wide expanse - see with what
pleasure he recognizes each familiar group
passing in review before him - once the companions
of his midnight vigils - right after right he
thus has sat each on its turn bringing some new
food for reflection, but at length his insatiate
mind has exhausted all within its reach and
now wanders at will through the barren fields
which he has spoiled - and look with what
despair he now regards what was once the
source of so much gratification - And will

he might, for nature yielded not tamely after
secrets - But now with renewed spirit he
searches with falcon eye their inmost depths
but still same fortune forsakes him - yet still
his countenance brightens - and now it is changed
again - surely 'tis some Chimera of an excited
imagination that thus blots out all other objects
from his view - his hand is passed across
his maned eyes - he looks again, and still
his cautious mind can scarce believe his
eyes - he knows by intuition that he has before
him on his mind's grasp that long sought for
object -

Thus it was Similia was played -
Amid the trap of sophistry with which
Cullen enveloped each idea, however plausible
the discriminating mind of Heahnuman, intuitively
as it were, first detected the existence of his

universal principle -

The faithful reaction, from the shock which the medical world received when Jenner enunciated his theory, had hardly obtained when it was again aroused by Hahneman's "Similia" - The history of its development is too well known to need comment - it is the primer of the student of Homoeopathy. But what as to its state at the present day?

Each man is differently constituted from his fellow - as in body so in mind, the one stands preeminently above the other - How then could we expect a similarity of sentiment. Though they may agree as regards the truth of any principle, still they always differ more or less as regards the mode of its application - Is it not

been with Christianity - the numerous sects
of Christians all agreeing in the essence
of the faith, but differ in regard to the
forms ect- So it is now with Homoeopathy
all agreeing in the truth of "Similia" but
differing somewhat as to its extent & mode
of application - Such indeed has
been the fate of every great truth that has
been dwelt upon by the mind of man -
Some minds are satisfied with the practical
application of such truths - they behold
the effect; they have the cause at their
finger's end; - the knowledge of the how and
the wherefore they have not nor can for -
They gaze into the vista beyond and see nothing
but an interminable trap of facts & theories
and taking advantage of the experience of others
which has fully proved the folly of the indulgence

wisely Content themselves with the Evidence
before them — Others again must know the
Why & the Wherefore of Every thing; they seek to
athom the innermost recesses of Nature, and
by their Superior Wisdom compel her to yield
up her greatest secrets. — As well might
we attempt to answer that all-important
question "What is life?" as well attempt
the solution of the problem of Eternity —
the bare idea of which is far beyond our
comprehension — as explain the "modus
vivendi" of a dog, dynamised or not, ~~or the~~
It has indeed been the fortune of many to have
wasted their time and talents in abortive search
for that hidden power which exerts its influence
in every form & feature of life — gradually
led on by some ignorant fancies of their excited
imagination, until at length they have become

beuildered & lose themselves in a maze of
impracticable theories of their own Creation - Such
is the result of all such trains of reasoning
which would place man on the same stand-
point from which Nature views the beauty and
harmony of her works - - - - -

There is one peculiar characteristic
of many Homeopaths, and that is "the
great solicitude they have for the source of
all information" - repudiating every thing derived
of Allopathy - They forget the results of
Hahnemann's search amongst the Allopathic
Records and in a spirit of false pride ask
"Can any good come out of Bazarst?"
They would, no doubt, content themselves
with the prima-para thoughts of the
followers of Hahnemann - Many of them
might be greatly benefited by careful

reflection on that remark of the Miss Cullen
"that a very fertile source of false facts, is, the
vanity of being the authors of observations which
are often too hastily made, and sometimes perhaps
entirely dressed in the cloth."

The records of Med. Jurisprudence & Toxicology
of the old School are as invaluable
to us as the well authenticated proving of
Hahneman - In them we find the only means
of supplying the many gaps now in our
Rational Medica - And also in many of
their most extensive & most plausible theories
we catch glimpses of the gentle law of
"Similia" - Their many experiments guided by
Empiricism alone often result in additional
confirmation of its truth -

When it was announced to the world of
Medicine that Syphilis had been cured by

Upsated inoculations of the Syphilitic virus
it has not denounced without a hearing as is
usually the fate of such seeming Extravagance, but
giving the Evidence all due weight a conclusion
is deferred until further results may be obtained.

Thus it was with this subject of Syphilization
broached for the first time some six years since.
Meeting with impartial judgement even in the
most critical journals of England

It had its origin with a Frenchman
Mr. Alzais Darsonne, who while experimenting
upon animals found that after a number of
inoculations they became proof against the
Syphilitic virus - Starting from this he conceived
the idea of using continued inoculation for
the Cure of Syphilis - and which accord-
ing to him & a few others was soon speedily
realized - It was at first proposed

as a prophylactic against Syphilis; but
this Chimerical idea was soon abandoned
on reflecting that this disease, so horrible in
its nature, is reserved for those who attract
it themselves — About the same time
a Dr Springs of Penn was possessed of the
same idea — and Experimenting on his patients
fortnightly, was very successful; reporting some fifty
or sixty cures — all of which he alleges to have
cured — But Dr Wilhelm Boiss, of
the University of Norway, goes still farther and
shows us when it is, or is not of avail — He
thus describes the process —

"Without any

other preparation than a warm bath, or in my
private practice even without this, I apply
on each thigh, and on each arm, or on the
sides only, three inoculations in every one of

these places, with matter taken from a primary
ulcer, or from an artificially produced one in
a person who has been syphilized - I choose
the first named place for those who are lying
in the hospitals, but I inoculate the sides
of those, who, during syphilization, are going
out attending to their business; however I must
add, that I never confine my inoculations
exclusively to the sides; if they do not prove
effectual there, I apply them on the thighs,
on which we shall almost always find
the ulcers to be larger, deeper, and of longer
duration; therefore I think this place the best,
and never fail inoculating there - Every third
day I inoculate anew; as long as the last
inoculations produce pustules, I take the
matter from these - In some instances the
inoculated person becomes proof to one sort

of virus; I then take the matter for inoculation
from another, preferring a case that has had
a different origin; this then proves effectual.
But sometimes they become proof to this also,
and then I seek for a third source; and then
I go on as long as any matter will operate."

He claims that immunity follows the above
treatments which on the average requires about
three months. The symptoms of Constitutional
Syphilis not always vanishing immediately but
sometimes lingering for some months.

According to him it does not cure all cases
— in those who have been treated with Iodine
he conjoints other medicinal treatment before
it produces any effect — also in affections
of the osseous system — it irradiates the pain
somewhat but produces no apparent effect
— here also he conjoints Acidum and brings about

a beneficial effect - Some diseases & mental
maladies are referable to mercury & for this
reason are not affected by the process -

No relapses are recorded during the space of
six years which this system has been practised -

Heister has said that a chancre
cannot be produced in a person affected
with Secondary Syphilis, by matter taken from
one of his own sores - Ricord coincides
with him but continues no further -

We have frequently of late years seen
incidental mention of the Circumstance without
comment - But even Dr. Wm. Porter of
the Royal Col. of Surgeons of Ireland asks
attention to the fact so frequently observed, but
so often passed by without notice, "that if
a tainted mother has a pocky child, she
may tend & suckle the child without the slightest

risk of being inoculated by it, but if he gives
it out to another human to inoc, this latter will
be most certainly affected" - From this he
obtains, and sustains as far as possible with
facts from his own experience & that of others, the
law that "the infection of Syphilis never
returns upon itself or recontaminates the source
from which it has been derived" - Now
supposing this law to be true - though many
doubt it - often from mere scepticism - Callin
to mind also that syphilization is only practised
on those affected with Secondary or tertiary Syphilis
where the matter inoculated is taken from a
primary sore on the person of another - also the
manner in which the process is carried on
the matter for a fresh inoculation taken from
that sore which immediately preceded it -
the time also taken to produce immunity

generally in the neighborhood of three months -
not forgetting that the patient has at the time
consuming through his veins a fair sample of that
poison virus - Can we explain the apparent
cure in any other way than by ascribing it
at once to the principle "Similia"?

The pustular stage of the primary Cow
is well known to be but a local disease -
about the fourth day it generally begins
to change its character and the general
system shows signs of irritation - and then
the process of complete absorption goes on unless
checked by appropriate treatment -

That the poison exists in the systems of
those affected in different degrees of strength
there can be no doubt - Indeed we see evidence
of the fact each day of practice - This may
be owing to the modification by treatment

or by the natural strength of the Constitution
enabling it in a great degree to be thrown
off - That the degree of strength of the
virus of the primary Pore exceeds that which
lies latent in the human organism is
easily conceived - as the virus must be of
a greatly finer to be absorbed into the system
& form a Compound with every fluid of the body -
Now in the production of Syphilization the
patients are those having the poison lying
latent in their systems - on inoculating
them with the virus taken from a primary
Pore, the degree of virulence of the poison
so overbalances the Constitutional affection
that the characteristic Pore is produced -
the second inoculation follows with the
same result, the virus still exceeding in strength
the Constitutional disease - then the third in

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like Enamur - but all this time while
they are attempting to produce new pustules,
those previously produced take on the power
of absorption and ^{add} this power to the consti-
-tutional virus - Each succeeding inoculation
thus becoming less active until at length
no effect whatever is produced - having - we
propose - arrived at that point at which
the two virus of distinct separate origin have
become so amalgamated as to become one
and the same, and because "the infection
of Syphilis never recontaminates the source
from which it has been derived" the charac-
-teristic effect is wanting - Having effected
this much they try another virus and the
same process is gone through with always
producing the same result - perfect immunity
from the matter taken from a sore upon the

patient himself - but each virus of distinct origin producing the characteristic effect -

Can we call this a cure, even an alleviation? For during the process of inoculation they are obliged to use internal treatment at the same time, to allay the additional irritation produced by the local sores - And indeed in many cases recorded by Dr Boeck we find that he continued to give his antiodotal remedies at the same time he was pursuing the process of inoculation - Then how we have a patient using an External Remedy and at the same time taking an antidote internally - And in those cases which Dr reports cured & has since suffered no relapse is it not probable that many be of such Constitution that it would require a powerful exciting cause to

arouse the latent disease -

But independent of every other Consideration
since it cannot effect the well known results
of Mercury so universally joined with
Syphilis - why should we submit any one
to so trying an Experiment - particularly
since in the pages of our *Matina Medica*
we find the records of more sure & speedy
means of relief - Why not at once
adopt Ricord's favorite treatment by which
he pretends that "in from four to six weeks
he cures every Constitutional Syphilis, that
he ~~never~~ ~~ever~~ any relapses and still
less any paralytic mental Maladies &c"

If we must use such treatment why
not at once modify it and add "Syphilin"
to our *Matina Medica* -